Amendments to Chapter 15-306 Hawaii Administrative Rules

1. Section 15-306-2, Hawaii Administrative Rules, is amended by amending the definition of "eligible housing project" to read:

""Eligible housing project" means:

- (1) A rental housing project by a qualified person or firm where at least fifty percent of the available units are for households with incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area median family income, as determined by HUD, of which at least twenty per cent of the available units are for households with incomes at or below sixty per cent of the area median family income, as determined by HUD; or
- (2) A housing project meeting at least one of the three income criteria and at least one of the three development criteria that follow:
 - (A) Income criteria:
 - (i) At least twenty per cent of the units in the project are rented or sold to households with incomes of up to fifty per cent of the area median income as determined by HUD;
 - (ii) At least forty per cent of the units are rented or sold to households with incomes of up to ninety-five per cent of the area median income, as determined by HUD; or
 - (iii) At least sixty per cent of the units must be rented or sold to households with incomes of up to one hundred forty per cent of the area median income, as determined by HUD; and

- (B) Development criteria:
 - (i) Rental or for-sale housing projects which are developed under a housing development program pursuant to part II of chapter 201H, HRS;
 - (ii) Rental or for-sale housing projects which are developed or acquired for the provision of affordable housing under a government assistance program approved by the corporation;
 - (iii) Rental or for-sale housing projects developed under the sponsorship of a private nonprofit corporation.
- 2. Section 15-306-2, Hawaii Administrative Rules, is amended by amending the definition of "government assistance program" to read:

""Government assistance program" means any housing program qualified by the corporation and administered or operated by the State, the corporation, the United States, or any of their political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, corporate or otherwise, which may be used to effectuate housing development and acquisition for the provision of affordable housing for qualified persons in the State.

"Government assistance program" includes, but is not limited to, the United States Department of Agriculture's 502 and 515 programs; the Federal Housing Administration's 235 program; the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME, HOPE, 202, and 811 programs; the section 802 military housing program; the military construction and family housing program; the military housing privatization initiative program; the low income housing tax credit program; the corporation's rental housing trust fund program; the corporation's rental assistance program; tax exempt or taxable multi-family bond financing programs administered by the

corporation or any of the counties; the acquisition of land and existing structures for the provision of affordable housing, for which federal, state or county funds are appropriated or otherwise approved; and residential projects developed by the department of Hawaiian home lands."

3. Section 15-306-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§15-306-14 Criteria for determining eligibility of projects. In approving or disapproving a project for exemption from general excise taxes, the corporation shall determine whether:

- (1) The project is an eligible housing project under these rules; [and]
- (2) The exemption from general excise taxes will achieve cost savings to assure economic feasibility which will encourage and enable the production or preservation of as many lower cost housing units as possible; and
- (3) The project is consistent with any other requirements under the law or under this chapter.

The corporation may disapprove a project for exemption from general excise taxes if these criteria are not met." [Eff] (Auth: HRS §\$201H-36, 237-29)